REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Petition is hereby made under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of two months of the period for response to the Office Action. Our cheque in respect of the prescribed fee is enclosed.

The courtesy of the Examiner in granting an Interview on this application to the applicants representative, Mr. Michael Stewart, and to Mr. Reza Yacoob, a member of the Patents Department of the assignee, is much appreciated. It is considered that the Interview was material in advancing the prosecution of this application. The Interview Summary fairly summarizes the discussion at the Interview. The comments and submissions made herein complement and supplement those made to the Examiner at the Interview.

The Examiner objected to claims 13 to 15 under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

In this regard, claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claim 12. It is noted that claim 12 has been allowed. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that, claim 13 was vague and indefinite in using the language "corresponding to" and "another HIV isolate". This language has been deleted from the new rewritten independent form of claim 13. In addition claim 13 has been clarified to make it clear that it is the peptide which is in the form of a lipopeptide and not the HIV isolate. Having regard thereto, it is submitted that claim 13 can no longer be considered indefinite.

Having regard to the revisions made to claim 13, it is submitted that claims 13 to 15 can no longer be considered open to objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c) and that claims 13 to 15 are in an allowable form. Our cheque in respect of the prescribed fee for an additional independent claim was enclosed with the Amendment after Final submitted March 18, 2002.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4 to 11 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification

in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Reconsideration is requested having regard to the following.

As discussed with the Examiner at the Interview and as reflected in the Interview Summary, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the host is one possessing MHC class I HLA A2 molecules and that the T-cell inducing HIV molecule is one capable of binding to MHC class I HLA A2 molecules. Claims 2 and 3 have consequentially been deleted.

In addition, claim 10, directed to the specifically exemplified lipopeptides CLP-175 and CLP-176, has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the specific T-helper molecule of claim 4, namely CLP-243. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that amendments made to claim 10 raise new issues and necessitate new grounds of rejection. In this regard, the Examiner stated that there is no support for "MHL" in claim 10. This term is clearly a clerical error for MHC used in claim 1 and claim 10 has been further amended in this regard.

Thus, applicants claims define a method of generating an HIV-specific cytotoxic T-cell (CTL) response in a host possessing MHC class I HLA A2 molecules. The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that applicants data is only limited to methods using MHC class I HLA A2 molecules. Limitation of claim 1 in this respect, therefore, satisfies the Examiner's concerns with respect to scope of the HLA class I molecules.

With respect to the oligopeptides, newly-independent claim 10 recites the specific lipopeptides and presumably such claim meets the requirements of 35 USC 112, first paragraph. As to claim 1, this claim recites the use of a T-cell inducing HIV molecule which is capable of binding to MHC class I HLA A2 molecules.

Applicants invention lies not so much in the use of specific molecules but rather in the protocol for generating an HIV-specific T-cell response in a host. As recited in claim 1, there is first administered to the host a T-helper molecule to prime

T-helper cells of the immune system of the host. Thereafter, there is administered to the host a mixture of the T-helper molecule and T-cell inducing HIV molecule to generate the HIV-specific CTL response in the host. The applicants have exemplified this procedure in hosts possessing MHC class I HLA A2 molecules using the specific combinations of materials recited in claim 10.

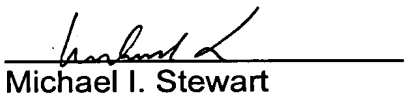
Having regard to the amendments made to the claims and the above comments, it is submitted that claims 1 and 4 to 11 fully comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and hence the rejection thereof on this ground should be withdrawn.

Entry of this Amendment after Final Action is requested, in that the application thereby is placed in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner considers one or more ground of rejection to remain, it is submitted that this Amendment nevertheless should be entered, since the issues for appeal thereby are reduced and/or the claims are placed in better condition for appeal.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**."

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and early and favourable consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 10 and 13 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of generating an HIV-specific cytotoxic T-cell (CTL) response in a host possessing MHC class I HLA A2 molecules, which comprises:

administering to the host a T-helper molecule to prime T-helper cells of the immune system of the host, and

subsequently administering to the host a mixture of said T-helper molecule and a T-cell inducing HIV molecule capable of binding to MHC class I HLA A2 molecules to generate an HIV-specific T-cell response in the host.

10. (Amended) A [The] method of generating an HIV-specific cytotoxic T-cell (CTL) response in a host possessing MHC class I HLA A2 molecules, which comprises:

administering to the host a T-helper molecule which is CLP-243 (SEQ ID No: 10) to prime T-helper cells of the immune system of the host, and

subsequently administering to the host a mixture of said T-helper molecule and a T-cell inducing HIV molecule capable of binding to MHC class I HLA A2 molecule and which is a [of claim 8 wherein said] lipopeptide which is CLP-175 or CLP-176 to generate an HIV-specific T-cell response in the host.

13. (Amended) A [The] peptide consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 52 to 116 (SEQ ID No: 9) of the sequence of the Rev protein of HIV-1 LAI isolate and containing T-cell epitopes within amino acids 63 to 73 (SEQ ID No: 3), 74 to 83 (SEQ ID No: 5) and 102 to 110 (SEQ ID No: 8), [claim 12] said peptide being in the form of a lipopeptide.